

MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief
SUBJECT: Wolf Program Activities and Related Information
WEEK OF: July 9–15, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

Previous Activities:

7/7: WS confirmed 2 calves as being killed by wolves in the Sage Creek area. Traps have been set to place a radio collar and kill any additional captures.

7/8: WS confirmed a calf as being killed by wolves in the Cottonwood Creek area in the Upper Ruby. A black wolf was seen on the carcass and the rider shot at the wolf and believed he hit it. No Wolf carcass was found.

WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:

7/13: Ross trapped and collared a female black yearling wolf from the Toadflax pack in the upper Madison Valley.

7/13: Smucker and Rowan trapped and collared an adult male wolf in Chamberlain Creek in the Blackfoot Valley.

Laudon documented numbers and reproduction on the Condon pack.

Whitehead and Evans have begun a trap line to collar a wolf in a pack Northwest of Kalispell. It is not yet known if this is a new pack or the Good pack.

Panning and Werhahn have been surveying the Good and Ashley pack areas.

WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:

7/5 and 7/10: WS removed two adult female wolves from a pack believed to be new near the Lost Trail Refuge area (west of Kalispell). Control is ongoing.

7/9: A ranch employee in the Big Hole near Jackson reported shooting at and missing a wolf chasing cattle in the Big Hole on private land.

7/11: FWP in collaboration with the Big Hole Watershed Committee, Wildlife Conservation Society, People and Carnivores, and local ranchers started a range rider project in the West Pioneers of the Big Hole.

7/14: WS trapped and collared an adult gray male wolf near a calf carcass from the 7/7 Sage Creek depredation.

7/14: A rancher requested an investigation of a dead calf that had a grizzly bear and two wolves near/on the carcass near Augusta. WS determined that it was an unconfirmed wolf kill and actually killed by a grizzly.

7/15: WS investigated a report of 4 cows being killed by wolves near Melrose. They were unconfirmed or wolves did not kill them.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:

7/12: Lance gave a presentation to ~20 students at a science camp in Butte.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:

LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:

OTHER UPDATES:

Two hybrid wolves are thought to be loose in the Three Mile Road/Birdseye Road area near Helena. Anyone with information or anyone observing the animals should contact the Lewis and Clark County Sheriff's office.

7/15 update: The two hybrids have been captured.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.